



Village Cereal Aggregation Centres : Kenya

Promoting better post-harvest practices for food security and market linkages

Project description

Village Cereal Aggregation Centres (VCACs) introduce post-harvest technologies and support farmers to engage in safe near-farm cereal storage, in order to increase food security and their capacity to trade competitively.



Business model

VCACs comprise grain processing and bulking facilities, fully equipped with aflatoxin-testing kits, moisture meters, threshing, drying and bagging gear, and hermetic storage.

The initiative offers farmers comprehensive training in post-harvest management including aflatoxin and pest control methods, grain marketing and trading standards, and business and financial management.

Scaling up activities in 2011

- Establish a demonstration project benefitting 2,000 households.
- Undertake capacity-building for 1,500 farmers and develop 40 master trainers in post-harvest management.
- Establish a national stakeholder forum to monitor the project and support policy development.
- Aggregate 30,000 bags of maize for food security and trading.

Immediate needs

- Offer extensive training to inform farmers about post-harvest losses attributable to aflatoxin and pest infestation.
- Undertake field research to support the adoption of hermetic storage.
- Mobilise value chain partners to provide financing, insurance, agro-inputs and markets.
- Generate evidence to support public policy development.





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Partnership

- **Kenya Promotions & Marketing Company (Holdings) Ltd.** provides technology, expertise and establishes fully equipped post harvest management centres.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture** supports the establishment of the VCACs on a public private sector basis and promotes the establishment within key cereal production areas.
- **The National Irrigation Board** supports small-scale farmers to engage in irrigation farming.
- **Equity Bank** provides financing to farmers to access agro-inputs and markets.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: The initiative is creating new community-level co-operatives, which enhance the farmers' ability to engage in joint production, processing, storage and marketing activities. This will lead to increased incomes, food security and improved social welfare.

Environmental impact: By encouraging improved production and proper land and water utilisation, the initiative encourages farmers to adopt good

environmental protection practices and reduce the use of harmful pesticides in food storage.

Economic impact: Post-harvest losses in cereals are reduced by over 25% by increasing profitability in cereal production activities. This helps farmers to gain better returns on their investment.

Contact

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SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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